



# *The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of State Police*

CHARLES D. BAKER  
GOVERNOR

KARYN E. POLITO  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

THOMAS A. TURCO, III  
SECRETARY

COLONEL KERRY A. GILPIN  
SUPERINTENDENT

*Office of the Chief Legal Counsel  
470 Worcester Road  
Framingham, Massachusetts 01702*

## COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

April 12, 2019

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH  
SUPERVISOR OF PUBLIC RECORDS  
RAO.Petitions@sec.state.ma.us  
**RE: SPR19/0658**

### DEPARTMENT OF STATE POLICE'S MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION OF DENIAL TO ASSESS FEE PETITION.

The Department of State Police (Department) hereby petitions the Supervisor of Public Records for reconsideration of its denial to assess a fee petition for costs associated with responding to a public records request submitted by Mr. Daniel Kaufman on February 11, 2019. Specifically, Ms. Kaufman submitted a public records request to the Department seeking the following:

***"Any and all documents, communications, memorandum, and reports containing the terms or related to the groups 'Antifa' 'Socialist Rifle Association' and 'John Brown Gun Club' between 1/1/15 and 2/10/2019."***

The Department, through the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS), conducted a preliminary search of emails for the designated time period and advised that there are approximately 5,563 emails responsive to this request. Given the volume of information requiring review, the Department's good faith estimate of cost amounts to \$6,853.75. The Department submitted a fee petition on March 28, 2019. The Supervisor of Public Records denied this petition based on the fact that it was submitted more than ten business days after receipt of the request.

I would note that from the time the Department received this request, there was immediate and ongoing amicable communication, as routinely suggested and encouraged by the Supervisor of Public Records, between both parties from the time this request was received. The request was received on February 11, 2019. I immediately sent the search parameters to the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS). Upon receiving the results from EOTSS on February 19, 2019, given the sheer amount of information produced, I immediately notified Mr. Kaufman of the results that an approximate cost for review and redaction of the records would be close to \$7,000 so that he could make a determination of how to proceed. On February 23, 2019, Mr. Kaufman amended his request by providing additional parameters to further refine his search. After inquiring with EOTSS, I responded to Mr.


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Kaufman on February 26, 2019 to inform him that the additional parameters would not affect the existing results. I further explained the cost by stating the amount of time needed to review the volume of emails alone would be approximately 280 hours. After considering all of this information, Mr. Kaufman replied approximately 2 weeks later on March 11, 2019, thanked me for the reply, and indicated that he would like to proceed with his request. Unfortunately, I was out of the office due to sickness on Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> and Monday, March 25, 2019. Upon arriving at the office on March 26<sup>th</sup>, I immediately notified Mr. Kaufman of my situation and asked if he would agree to an extension until Thursday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at 5:00pm in order to provide an official written and signed cost estimate which would correspond to the preliminary estimate I gave on February 19th. Mr. Kaufman replied the same day stating, "Sure thing. That date will be just fine. Hope you get well soon!"

As you can see, the entirety of the communication between the Department and Mr. Kaufman was carried out in an effort to resolve this matter swiftly and amicably and to reduce the burden of cost that often falls on the requestor. There was no purposeful delay on behalf of either side, but rather full and open communication with an eye toward resolving the request to the benefit of both parties. The 10-day fee petition deadline was only missed due to an unforeseen illness and the requestor was more than understanding about extending the deadline. Furthermore, I would note that Mr. Kaufman was already on notice of the approximate cost to fulfill his request within six business days of submitting his request. To deny a fee petition under these circumstances only discourages the open and ongoing communication between the parties on both sides of a public records request as is routinely encouraged by the Supervisor of Public Records.

The Department therefore requests that the Supervisor of Public Records reconsider its ruling in this matter and allow the Department to assess the previously requested fee.

Thank you,



Jason Stelmat  
Privacy Officer  
Commonwealth Fusion Center  
Department of State Police

Cc: Daniel Kaufman